

## Message Text

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61  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MMS-01

/021 W  
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P R 272133Z MAR 75  
FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8619  
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: OEXC/AFSP/AMGT/APER/BB  
SUBJ: USIS OPERATIONS IN BRIDGETOWN

REFS: (A) BURKE-BRITTON LETTER OF MARCH 3  
(B) NIEBURG-BURKE MEMO OF FEBRUARY 24  
(C) STATE 055005

USIA: FOR DIRECTOR FROM AMBASSADOR

ARA/CAR I FOR BURKE FROM AMBASSADOR

1. BECAUSE OF MY EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE WITH USIA OPERATIONS WHILE CARRYING OUT VOLUNTEER SPEAKER ASSIGNMENTS IN EUROPE, ASIA AND AFRICA, I HAVE SPECIAL INTEREST IN THIS FACET OF EMBASSY ACTIVITIES AND FEEL STRONGLY THAT THERE IS NEED FOR STRENGTHENING USIA OPERATIONS AT THIS EMBASSY. OVER LAST TWO DAYS, I HAVE HELD CONVERSATIONS WITH PORT-OF-SPAIN-BASED PAO DONALD W. MULLIGAN HERE IN BRIDGETOWN AND HAVE REVIEWED WITH HIM REFS. (A) AND (B), AS WELL AS AMBASSADOR MILLER'S RECENT LETTER TO BURKE, WHICH I HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY SEEN. CONVERSATIONS AND REVIEW HAVE ENABLED ME TO SHARPEN FOCUS ON POSSIBLE APPROACHES AND TO REACH CONCLUSIONS REGARDING MEANS BEST DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE DESIRED END OF

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STRENGTHENING USIS OPERATIONS. I SINCERELY APPRECIATE CONCERN ON

PART OF USIA WHICH MOTIVATED PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH USIS AMERICAN PRESENCE IN BRIDGETOWN BY SHIFTING HALF-TIME POSITION FROM PORT OF SPAIN. NEVERTHELESS, I HAVE SERIOUS DOUBTS AS TO PRACTICABILITY OF PROPOSAL AS FORMULATED. THERE IS, IT SEEMS TO ME, VERY REAL DANGER THAT OFFICER WORKING HALF-TIME ON USIS DUTIES AND HALF-TIME AT STATE JOB WOULD BE ABLE TO DO NEITHER WELL AND WOULD FEEL FRUSTRATED, ALSO THAT SUCH A SET-UP WOULD NOT BE IN CAREER INTEREST OF OFFICER SO ASSIGNED.

2. I FEEL THAT SOLUTION TO PROBLEM LIES RATHER IN DIRECTION OF HAVING MATURE, EXPERIENCED USIS LOCAL EMPLOYEE AND MORE FREQUENT VISITS TO BRIDGETOWN BY PORT OF SPAIN-BASED PAO, AS WELL AS INCREASED SUPERVISION BY THE LATTER OF THE FORMER'S ACTIVITIES. I SEE POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTION BY ROVING CAO FROM KINGSTOWN ALSO AS PART OF THIS PICTURE. IN ADDITION, I HAVE BEEN USING AND WILL CONTINUE TO USE, AS TIME PERMITS, SERVICES OF PEACE CORPS DIRECTOR WILLIAM E. JONES, WHO IS A CAREER USIS OFFICER, FOR AGENCY PURPOSES.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH MULLIGAN, QUESTION OF COUNTRY PLAN PROPOSAL WAS ALSO RAISED. SINCE THIS EMBASSY WAS NOT ASKED TO APPROVE OR CONCUR, CPP PRESUMABLY COVERS ONLY TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. IN ANY CASE, EMBASSY APPEARS NOT TO HAVE BEEN AFFORDED OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE ANY INPUT, THOUGH DCM DID SUGGEST IN LETTER TO PAO THAT NUMBER OF CU GRANTS MIGHT PROFITABLY BE INCREASED. PAO WAS, AT THAT TIME, UNCERTAIN OF HIS ROLE AND OF BRIDGETOWN'S (SEE PORT OF SPAIN 0692). IT SEEMS CLEAR TO ME THAT, SINCE BRIDGETOWN IS A SUB-POST OF USIS POST IN PORT OF SPAIN, CPP SHOULD HAVE INCLUDED PLANS, WORKED OUT IN CONSULTATION WITH THIS EMBASSY, FOR USIS/CU OPERATIONS IN THE TWO INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES OF BARBADOS AND GRENADA AND IN FIVE WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT USIA RECONSIDER PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH USIS AMERICAN PRESENCE ON HALF-TIME BASIS AND AUTHORIZE EMBASSY TO HIRE LOCAL EMPLOYEE TO REPLACE C.O. THOMAS, WHOSE LAST DAY OF DUTY IS TODAY (MARCH 27). ALSO THAT PAO IN PORT OF SPAIN BE DIRECTED TO PAY MORE FREQUENT VISITS TO BRIDGETOWN AND TO PREPARE, IN CONSULTATION WITH THIS EMBASSY, SUPPLEMENTARY COUNTRY PLAN PROPOSAL COVERING USIS/CU ACTIVITIES IN AREA SERVED BY THIS EMBASSY AND THAT ANY BUDGETARY PLANS HERAFTER REFLECT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIFIC ALLOCATION FOR BRIDGETOWN (PRESENT ALLOCATION APPARENTLY UNDETERMINED).

5. I WILL BE WRITING DIRECTLY TO DIRECTOR KEOGH IN VERY NEAR FUTURE.  
BRITTON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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